

## How long should a tutoring session be? By age, and a tutor for a 5 year old

| Age           | Grade (US)                | Session      | A week             | How it is built                                                      |
|---------------|---------------------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 4 to 5        | Pre-K, K                  | 20 to 30 min | 2 or 3             | Four or five activities of about five minutes; a parent alongside    |
| 6 to 7        | Grades 1 to 2             | 30 to 40 min | 2                  | Three blocks with a change of activity; a parent in earshot          |
| 8 to 10       | Grades 3 to 5             | 40 to 50 min | 2                  | Two blocks with a short break; ten minutes of practice on other days |
| 11 to 13      | Grades 6 to 8             | 45 to 60 min | 1 or 2             | Review, new work, practice; the child writes for most of it          |
| 14 to 18      | Grades 9 to 12            | 60 min       | 1 or 2 per subject | One topic in depth, exam questions, marked working                   |
| Test practice | SAT, ACT, AP, state tests | Up to 90 min | 1, near the test   | A timed section, a break, then review of every error                 |

### Should you get a tutor for a 5 year old?

Yes when: learning to read in a language the parents do not read; behind the class in sounds or counting and the school has said so; ahead and bored; a heritage language started early. No when: the goal is getting ahead for its own sake, the child is tired after school, or the session is a worksheet on a webcam.

### The 30-minute session for a 5 year old, minute by minute

| Minutes | Activity                                                                  |
|---------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3       | Hello, a song or a counting game: something the child can already do      |
| 5       | Sounds and letters: two or three sounds, said, seen and traced in the air |
| 5       | Counting real things, or objects on the screen, one touch for each        |
| 2       | Stand up: a movement game with numbers or sounds                          |
| 5       | A short story read together; 'what happened?'                             |
| 5       | The new thing for today, as a game                                        |
| 3       | Show a parent one thing learned; goodbye                                  |
| 2       | The tutor's two-minute note to the parent                                 |

## What you should see, and what to ask

| What you should see                                        | When          |
|------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|
| The child goes to the session without a fight              | Weeks 1 to 2  |
| Homework takes less time; fewer 'I can't'                  | Weeks 3 to 4  |
| The tutor can name the specific gaps and show them closing | By week 4     |
| A better mark on a quiz or test                            | Weeks 6 to 12 |

### Signs a session is too long

- ☐ Fidgeting, yawning or silliness in the last third
- ☐ Mistakes rise toward the end
- ☐ The child dreads the day
- ☐ The tutor fills the hour with worksheets

### Signs a session is too short

- ☐ The child is mid-problem when it ends, every time
- ☐ No time for the child to try alone
- ☐ The tutor never reaches the new work

### Questions to ask a tutor about length

- ☐ How long, and why that length for this age?
- ☐ What happens in the first ten minutes?
- ☐ How much of the session does my child write or speak?
- ☐ What will you tell me at the end of each session?
- ☐ When would you shorten or lengthen it?

### Your child's plan

Age and grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Session length and days: \_\_\_\_\_

What the first session should find out: \_\_\_\_\_

What I expect to see by week 4: \_\_\_\_\_

From [sciencewithshobha.com/blog/how-long-should-a-tutoring-session-be-by-age-and-how-long-should-a-5-year-old-be-tutored/](https://sciencewithshobha.com/blog/how-long-should-a-tutoring-session-be-by-age-and-how-long-should-a-5-year-old-be-tutored/)